Express Mail Label No.: EV 627295821US
Date of Deposit: May 23, 2005

U.S. Patent Appln. No. 10/038,405
Attorney Docket No.: 27799-013

Expedited Procedure
Under 37 C.F.R. §1.116
Group Art Unit 2683

Listing of Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1.   (previously presented) A method of optimizing a value associated with a characteristic of a product stored in a first field of a security database of a self-checkout system at an optimizing time, said security database also including a second field for storing identification information for said product, a third field for storing a last time when said value was last updated and a fourth field for storing at least one new value for said characteristic stored in said first field between said last time and said optimizing time, said value being used in a comparison to a second value associated with said characteristic and detected in a security area of said self-checkout system during a purchasing transaction, said comparison used as a security measure to confirm that a product placed in said security area during said purchasing transaction is the same product identified by said system after said system identifies said product via identification information input by a user of said system, said method comprising:

> querying said database for products having a time difference between said optimizing time and said last time greater than a predetermined period and having at least one new value for said characteristic, wherein said query establishes a query result; and

> revising said value for each product in said query result using said new value.

2.   (original) The method according to claim 1, wherein said query looks for products having a plurality of new values.

3.   (original) The method according to claim 1, wherein said query looks for products having a plurality of new values greater than a predetermined amount.

4.   (previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein said revising step

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comprises calculating a revised value for said value of said characteristic said new value.

5.   (original) The method according to claim 4, further comprising storing said revised value in place of said value.

6.   (original) The method according to claim 1, wherein said characteristic comprises a measurable characteristic of a product.

7.   (original) The method according to claim 6, wherein said measurable characteristic comprises a physical characteristic of said product.

8.   (original) The method according to claim 7, wherein said physical characteristic comprises a height of said product.

9.   (original) The method according to claim 7, wherein said physical characteristic comprises a length of said product.

10.   (original) The method according to claim 7, wherein said physical characteristic comprises a weight of said product.

11.   (original) The method according to claim 3, wherein said predetermined amount of new values is between 2-100.

12.   (original) The method according to claim 1, wherein said characteristic comprises a visual characteristic.

13.   (original) The method according to claim 1, wherein said characteristic comprises an auditory characteristic.

14.   (original) The method according to claim 1, wherein a plurality of characteristics each comprise a value.

15.   (previously presented) An apparatus for optimizing characteristic information

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comprising a value for a characteristic of a product stored in a security database of a self-checkout system, said security database including update information comprising a time that said characteristic information has last been updated and correction history information including recorded samples each comprising a new value for said characteristic information, said characteristic information used to compare to a second value associated with said characteristic detected by a security device of said self-checkout system, said characteristic information used as a security measure to confirm that a product placed in said security area is the same product identified by said system after identification information of said product is input by a user of said system, said apparatus comprising:

querying means for querying said database for products having said update information older than a predetermined period of time and having correction history information for said measurable characteristic comprising recorded samples greater than a predetermined amount, wherein said query establishes a query result; and

revising means for revising said value of said characteristic information in said security database for each product in said query result using said recorded samples.

16.   (original) The apparatus according to claim 13, wherein said revising means comprises calculating means for calculating a revised value for said value of said characteristic information by averaging said new values of said recorded samples and storing means for storing said revised value in place of said value of said characteristic.

17.   (original) The apparatus according to claim 13, wherein said revising means is conducted at a second time, and wherein said second time is stored by a storing means in place of said time of said update information for evidencing the time at which a revision of said value of said characteristic information is conducted.

18.   **(Canceled).**

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19.   (Canceled).

20.   (Canceled).